

Supported by ARAN, RAR, G4R, & NARN

**Issue for August 2022:  
Abolish the 'Fast Track' Assessment Process.**

Available to download at –

- <https://aran.net.au/resources/letter-writing/>
- <https://ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/write-a-letter>



Photo courtesy RCOA

Included in this kit is the information you need to create your own letters or use the proformas

- Guide and Background notes prepared by ARAN's Letter Writing Network.
- Postal Addresses for MPs and Senators
- Email addresses for MPs and Senators
- A proforma letter that you can copy (and personalise) to send by post or email.

**Personalised letters are best –**

- You might like to use the **AIDA** principle
  - **A - Attention** - grab the recipient's attention. Say something positive about the reader that is directed towards the focus of your letter. Stimulate the recipient's curiosity
  - **I - Interest & Information** - encourage the recipient to read on.
  - **D - Desire** - Getting the reader to want to do what you are seeking - in their interest to do so.
  - **A - Action** - inform the reader of the action you want them to take.

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Regards,

The ARAN Letter Writing Network  
[austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:austrefugeenetwork@gmail.com)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR ...

### Abolishing the 'Fast Track' Assessment Process

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#### Why this issue is important

People who arrived by boat and sought asylum between August 2012 and January 2014, and also refugees who are reapplying for Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs) are subject to Fast Track Assessment and Removal Processes.

As of December 2021 - 31,122 people were classified as being in the Legacy Caseload – most of these people have been subject to Fast Track, with around 66% being found to be refugees. The remainder have either been rejected or have yet to have their claims determined.

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#### Risks of 'Fast Track' - the Human Cost

The 'Fast Track' policy drastically changed the refugee determination process, removing a fair review process, and employing very short timeframes for lodging applications.

The government also cut 85% of funding for legal services to assist people with their application for protection, so that people often had to lodge their application without legal advice or support.

Because the Fast Track process is not thorough, and does not provide proper review processes, there is a high risk of people in need of protection are being returned to face persecution in violation of the UN Refugee Convention.

Many people are in fear of being deported to danger without the opportunity to appeal a negative decision.

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#### Origins of 'Fast Track'

In 2013, the Coalition Government claimed it was dealing with a **Legacy Caseload** - people the Government classified as 'Illegal Maritime Arrivals'.

Introduced by Coalition Government in 2013 to assess protection claims more quickly, '**Fast Track Processing**' was implemented by changes to the Migration Act 1958. (*Maritime Powers Amendment: Resolving the Asylum **Legacy Caseload Act 2014***).

'Fast track' replaced the Refugee Review Tribunal, an independent merits review system, with a new body, called the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA) that no longer heard directly from people claiming asylum, but was generally restricted to information from the Department of Immigration.

'Fast Track' is NOT fast, despite its claims of rapid assessment, review and removal. Many people are still waiting for a decision on their claims.

The Legacy Caseload included:

- Those who came by boat on or after 13 August 2012
  - Those who came prior to this but had not yet had protection applications assessed/granted under Refugee Review Tribunal RRT
  - Babies born to people in this Legacy Caseload
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#### Sources:

**Kaldor Centre Policy Brief:**

[https://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/sites/kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/files/Research%20Brief\\_Fast%20track\\_final.pdf](https://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/sites/kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/files/Research%20Brief_Fast%20track_final.pdf)

and <https://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/publication/temporary-protection-visas>

**Refugee Council of Australia:** <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fast-tracking-statistics/>

## The Way Forward

The Australian Labor Party has committed to abolishing the 'Fast Track' system of assessment:

*The existing **fast track assessment process** under the auspices of the Immigration Assessment Authority and the limitation of appeal rights does not provide a fair, thorough and robust assessment process for persons seeking asylum.*

**LABOR WILL ABOLISH THIS FAST TRACK ASSESSMENT PROCESS.**

*Labor will work to ensure asylum seekers have access to appropriate, independent, government-funded legal advice while working through their claims for protection.*

*Under the Refugee Convention, people seeking asylum have the right to seek protection and asylum.*

*Labor will continue to show global leadership and increase Australia's humanitarian refugee intake and **we will treat people seeking our protection with dignity and compassion in accordance with our international obligations, the rule of law and the principles of fairness.***

*Labor believes as a nation we must not harm people seeking refuge.*

<https://alp.org.au/media/2594/2021-alp-national-platform-final-endorsed-platform.pdf>

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## Key requests

- **A MORATORIUM** for refugees and asylum seekers facing deportation until such time as their claims have been determined.
  - **Immediately establish a FAIR AND THOROUGH PROCESS** to assess all claims of those seeking asylum in accordance with our international obligations under the UN Refugee Convention.
  - **An URGENT RE-ASSESSMENT OF CLAIMS** that were rejected under the so-called 'fast track' process.
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## Addresses for your letters: -

**NB:** MPs and Senators, especially Government Ministers, request that you use their contact forms rather than their email addresses

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**1. The Hon Andrew Giles, Minister for Immigration**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Contact Form:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Contact\\_Senator\\_or\\_Member?MPID=243609](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=243609)

Email: [andrew.giles.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:andrew.giles.mp@aph.gov.au)

**2. The Hon Clare O'Neil, Minister for Home Affairs**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Contact Form:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Contact\\_Senator\\_or\\_Member?MPID=140590](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contact_Senator_or_Member?MPID=140590)

Email: [clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au)

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**Canberra Postal Address for all Senators**

PO Box 6100  
Senate,  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Canberra Postal Address for all MPs**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

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You may also like to send an email to **your local MP...** and **Independent MPs and Senators.**

Find electorate postal and email addresses for MPs:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Guidelines\\_for\\_Contacting\\_Senators\\_and\\_Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members)

**Email addresses for Senators are on the next page:**

Where Senators' email addresses are not available on the APH (Australian Parliamentary House) website, we have suggested the standard convention for Senators' email addresses.

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**Please Note:**

Some MPs and Senators prefer the use of Contact Forms - see the APH website using the link above.

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## If you are sending an email, be sure to include your NAME and ADDRESS

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Email addresses for all **ACT** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au); [senator.david.pocock@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.david.pocock@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all **ACT** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au); [senator.seselja@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.seselja@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all **NSW** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.ayres@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ayres@aph.gov.au); [senator.bragg@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.bragg@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.davey@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.davey@aph.gov.au); [senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au); [senator.hughes@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hughes@aph.gov.au);  
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[senator.payne@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.payne@aph.gov.au); [senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **NT** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au); [senator.nampijinaprice@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.nampijinaprice@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all **Queensland** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.canavan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.canavan@aph.gov.au); [senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au); [senator.green@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.green@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.hanson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hanson@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au); [senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au);  
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[senator.stoker@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.stoker@aph.gov.au); [senator.waters@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.waters@aph.gov.au); [senator.watt@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.watt@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **SA** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.antic@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.antic@aph.gov.au); [senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au); [senator.farrell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.farrell@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au); [senator.grogan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.grogan@aph.gov.au); [senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.liddle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.liddle@aph.gov.au); [senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au); [senator.pocock@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.pocock@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.ruston@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ruston@aph.gov.au); [senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au); [senator.wong@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.wong@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **Tasmania** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.askew@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.askew@aph.gov.au); [senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au); [senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.chandler@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.chandler@aph.gov.au); [senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au); [senator.duniam@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.duniam@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.lambie@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lambie@aph.gov.au); [senator.mckim@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckim@aph.gov.au); [senator.polley@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.polley@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.tyrrell@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.tyrrell@aph.gov.au); [senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au); [senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au);

Email addresses for all **Victorian** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.babet@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.babet@aph.gov.au); [senator.ciccione@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ciccione@aph.gov.au); [senator.henderson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.henderson@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.hume@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.hume@aph.gov.au); [senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au); [senator.paterson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.paterson@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.rice@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.rice@aph.gov.au); [senator.stewart@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.stewart@aph.gov.au); [senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.van@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.van@aph.gov.au); [senator.walsh@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.walsh@aph.gov.au); [senator.white@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.white@aph.gov.au)

Email addresses for all **WA** senators - ready to copy and paste into "TO" section of your email:  
[senator.brockman@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.brockman@aph.gov.au); [senator.cash@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cash@aph.gov.au); [senator.cox@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cox@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.dodson@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.dodson@aph.gov.au); [senator.lines@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lines@aph.gov.au); [senator.matt.o'sullivan@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.matt.o'sullivan@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.pratt@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.pratt@aph.gov.au); [senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au); [senator.small@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.small@aph.gov.au);  
[senator.smith@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.smith@aph.gov.au); [senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au); [senator.sterle@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.sterle@aph.gov.au)

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## PROFORMA LETTER:

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*[Date]*

Dear Minister Giles/O'Neill,

Refugees included in the 'Legacy Caseload' have their applications for protection considered through the 'Fast Track' process of assessment, review and removal.

The 'Fast Track' Assessment Process through the Immigration Assessment Authority is neither 'fast' nor thorough. It can result in inappropriate decisions.

**The ALP has committed to abolishing the current 'Fast Track' pathway, and to replace it with a determination process 'in accordance with our international obligations, the rule of law, and the principles of fairness'.**

Without access to a review process, there is a high risk that people face inappropriate deportation and return to country of origin from which they fled - a violation of international law. Claimants do not have the right to an interview or present new material to support their application.

Most live with great hardship and uncertainty in the community, with severe mental health issues often the result of this unfair, unjust and inadequate system.

**All people awaiting deportation should have access to a thorough re-assessment of their claims.**

I therefore request that:

1. The Government immediately announce a **moratorium** for those refugees and asylum seekers facing deportation until such time as their claims have been determined due to the **unfair** 'Fast Track Determination Process'
2. The Government immediately replaces the existing 'fast track' process with a **fair and thorough review process** for the re-assessment of all claims of people seeking asylum in Australia.
3. The Government urgently **re-assess claims** that were rejected under the so-called 'fast track' process.

Yours sincerely

*[your name and address]*